

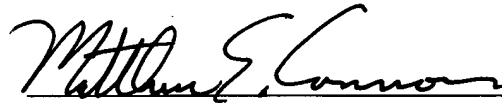
REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 13, 15, 19, 21, 23, 25-30, 32, 34, 37-38, 40, 42-49, 51, 53, 57, 59, 61, 63-68, 82, 84, 89, 91-95, 97, 99, 102-108, 110, 112, 115, 117-121, 124-125, 133-134, and 142-143 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 9, 11-12, 14, 16-18, 20, 22, 24, 31, 33, 35-36, 39, 41, 50, 52, 54-56, 58, 60, 62, 69-81, 83, 85-88, 90, 96, 98, 100-101, 109, 111, 113-114, 116, 122-123, 126-132, 135-141, and 144-145 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter these amendments under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 for the following reasons. As demonstrated above the present amendments place the application in condition for allowance. More specifically, the amendment to claim 37 places this claim in condition for allowance without raising any new issues of materiality. In the alternative, the amendments clearly reduce the issues present in this application and place the application in better condition for appeal. Thus, entry of these amendments under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 is proper and respectfully requested.

Accordingly, in view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all the present rejections. Also, an early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew E. Connors
Registration No. 33,298
Gauthier & Connors LLP
225 Franklin Street, Suite 3300
Boston, Massachusetts 02110
Telephone: (617) 426-9180
Extension 112

MEC/MJN/mjn